

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:  
**HOWARD I. SOBELMAN**  
 SNELL & WILMER LLP  
 ONE ARIZON CENTER  
 400 EAST VAN BUREN  
 PHOENIX, AZ 85004-2202

## PCT

### NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Date of Mailing <i>(day/month/year)</i>	<b>11 APR 2003</b>
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Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>40655.6316</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See paragraphs 1 and 4 below
International application No. <b>PCT/US02/16745</b>	International filing date <i>(day/month/year)</i> <b>24 May 2002 (24.05.2002)</b>
Applicant <b>AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL RELATED SERVICES CO., INC.</b>	

1.  The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

**Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:**

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the international application (see Rule 46):

**When?** The time limit for filing such amendments is normally two months from the date of transmittal of the international search report.

**Where?** Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34, chemin des Colombettes  
 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2.  The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect is transmitted herewith.

3.  With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

- the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
- no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

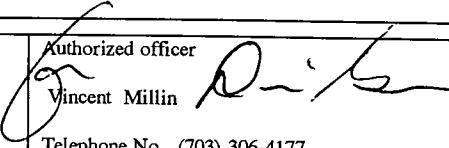
4. Reminders

Shortly after **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90 bis.1 and 90 bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase **until 30 months** from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise the applicant must, **within 20 months** from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of **30 months** (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner for Patents Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230	Authorized officer  Vincent Millin Telephone No. (703) 306-4177
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RECEIVED

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

APR 15 2003

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

HOWARD I. SOBELMAN  
 SNELL & WILMER LLP  
 ONE ARIZON CENTER  
 400 EAST VAN BUREN  
 PHOENIX, AZ 85004-2202

SNELL & WILMER  
PCTNOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT  
OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

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FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.  
PCT/US02/16745International filing date  
(day/month/year)

24 May 2002 (24.05.2002)

Applicant  
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 Box PCT  
 Washington, D.C. 20231  
 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Form PCT/ISA/220 (April 2002)

Authorized officer

Vincent Millin

Telephone No. (703) 306-4177

(See notes on accompanying sheet)

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 40655.6316	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/US02/16745	International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 24 May 2002 (24.05.2002)	(Earliest) Priority Date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 29 May 2001 (29.05.2001)
Applicant AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL RELATED SERVICES CO., INC.		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. **Basis of the Report**

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in written form.

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

2.  Certain claims were found **unsearchable** (See Box I).

3.  **Unity of invention is lacking** (See Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

as suggested by the applicant.

None of the figures

because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

because this figure better characterizes the invention.

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/US02/16745

**Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)**

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claim Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2.  Claim Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
  
3.  Claim Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

**Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
  
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

**Remark on Protest**  

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/US02/16745

**Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of Item 5 of the first sheet)**

The technical features mentioned in the abstract do not include a reference sign between parentheses (PCT Rule 8.1(d)).

**NEW ABSTRACT** A system and method for providing a reloadable prepaid card account maintained by a foreign financial institution(114) is provided. The foreign financial institution is provided with a domestic payment network authorization code, such as the bank identification number approved by the American Banking Association. The BIN along with a prepaid account number is loaded onto a prepaid card corresponding to the prepaid account. A prepaid cardholder may present the prepaid card to a merchant system(124) for completion of a transaction request(122). The merchant system may be accessed domestically and may recognize the BIN as belonging to the foreign financial institution(114) authorized to transact business on the merchant's domestic payment network. The merchant may seek satisfaction of the transaction request by submitting the transaction request to the foreign financial institution for processing. The foreign financial institution may provide funds to the merchant system to satisfy the transaction request, and the provided funds may be converted to the currency of the country in which the merchant system is accessed by the prepaid cardholder.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/16745

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G 06 F 17/60  
US CL : 705/26,39

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
U.S. : 705/26,39

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
West

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,884,274 A (WALKER et al) 16 March 1999 (16.03.1999), column 2, line 25 to column 14, line 42.	1-31
Y	US 5,893,907 A (UKUDA) 13 April 1999 (13.04.1999), column 1, line 62 to column 17, line 5.	1-31
Y	US 4,968,873 A (DETHLOFF et al) 06 November 1990 (06.11.1990), column 16, line 38 to column 16, line 38.	1-31
Y	US 4,837,422 A (DETHLOFF et al) 06 June 1989 (06.06.1989), column 8, line 55 to column 16, line 36.	1-31

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

*	Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

30 September 2002 (30.09.2002)

Date of mailing of the international search report

11 APR 2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

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Box PCT  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
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Authorized officer

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